

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL
JAMES H. MORRIS**

Inducted 16 June 2012



Jim Morris was born on 4 October 1931, in Vidalia, Georgia. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1948. His first assignment was with the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division in Bavaria, Germany, from November 1948 to July 1950 as part of the occupation constabulary force, and then with Company C, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War from July 1950 to October 1951. For the next five years, he served in various positions with different US Army units throughout the world, rising in ranks as an NCO before volunteering for and graduating from the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, on 24 June 1959. His first posting was at the 3rd Army NCO Academy at Fort Jackson, where he served from August 1959 to February 1961.

Lieutenant Morris began his twenty year tenure with Special Forces with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)(SFG(A)) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in 1961. He deployed to Laos with the last White Star Mobile Training Team six month rotation. He then was assigned to the 8th SFGA(A), Panama, pulling a three year tour. Captain Morris returned to Fort Bragg, assigned first as School Secretary of the US Army Special Warfare School from November 1965 to March 1966, then to the 6th SFG(A) for the remainder of the year. He then transferred to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa. Upon leaving 1st SFG(A) in September 1967, he assumed command of SFD-B, 46th Special Forces Company (Airborne) in Thailand. Serving a brief one year tour at Fort Benning, Georgia as Chairman of the Leadership Committee with The Infantry School, he then redeployed to Southeast Asia, this time assigned to the 5th SFG(A) whereupon he was made the Commander of SFOD B-33 and, then, Commander of the MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang from 1968 to 1969. Transferring back to Fort Bragg, he was first assigned with the 3rd SFG(A) and, later, as Executive Officer of the 7th SFG(A) from August 1969 to August 1970.

Chosen to be one of the key mission planners for the highly classified Operation Ivory Coast, more commonly known as the Son Tay Raid to rescue American Prisoners of War held in North Vietnam, on November 21, 1970, Major Morris proved invaluable, involved not only with all the preparations and training prior to the operation, but also during the actual deployment of the group from the launch site.

After the Raid, for the next three years, he attended various schools, beginning with the Foreign Area Officer Course, Fort Bragg and ending with the attainment of his bachelor's degree in August 1973 from Campbell University. Assigned to the J-3 Operations Directorate of U.S. Readiness Command at MacDill AFB, Florida, he served as the Special Operations Action Officer from August 1973 to July 1976. Returning to Fort Bragg, he assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 5th SFG(A), a post he held from July 1976 to April 1978. COL Morris was then sent for advanced coursework with the Defense Intelligence School, the Foreign Service Institute, and the CIA Case Officer Course before being posted as the Defense Attaché to Malawi for 14 months. He was then assigned, after graduating from the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, as the Commander of the graduate level School of International Studies and, in 1982, the Special Forces School. Both command assignments were with the US Army Institute of Military Assistance, Fort Bragg. Colonel Morris then returned overseas as Commander of Special Operations Task Force Europe with U.S. European Command at Stuttgart, West Germany, serving for three years from 1983 to 1986. COL Morris' last assignment before retiring from the U.S. Army on July 1, 1987 was as Inspector General for the State of Alabama National Guard.

In honor of his achievements, COL Morris was inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame in 1981. After his retirement from the Army, Col Morris was awarded the Military Order of Saint Maurice, Primicerius, for his contribution to the U.S. Army Infantry Branch in 2008. His awards and decorations include the Silver Star, The Distinguished Service Medal (NG), Legion of Merit w/3OLC, Meritorious Service Medal (4), Army Commendation Medal (3), Air Medal (3), and Combat Infantryman's Badge w/two stars, SF Tab, Master Airborne badge.